



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Texas fosters progress and prosperity even in hard economic times. Today, Texas is home to more jobs than before the economic recession began. The Texas economy defied national trends and continued to grow even in the face of the recession, far outpacing every other state. The Texas labor force is powerful evidence of Texas's growth; it now stands at nearly 12.3 million workers.

Among these 12.3 million workers are those who demonstrate that talent has no boundaries. People with disabilities are a vital part of the workforce, and Texas is committed to providing opportunities for everyone. The College Credit for Heroes program gives returning veterans, many with disabilities, college credit for their military experience. This allows veterans to transition into the workforce more smoothly, putting their exceptional skills to use. Each October, Texas recognizes the contributions of Texans dedicated to creating equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities through the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities' annual employment awards. This year, the committee honored disability rights champion Lex Frieden, naming the awards program after this tireless leader.

The first Lex Frieden Employment Awards winners are outstanding businesses, organizations and individuals: Scott Tisdall of Walgreens Distribution Center in Waxahachie; Professional Contract Services, Inc. in Killeen; Johnson Control in San Antonio; Taco Cabana #278 in Austin; the Laredo Independent School District; and Texas RehabACTion Network of Coastal Bend in Corpus Christi. The winners were recognized for providing wide-ranging accommodations in the workplace and promoting the natural talents of Texans with disabilities. This year's Texas disability employment awareness poster features "Me and My Bike," a metaphorical reflection on the value of resolve in the face of obstacles, by Houston artist Patricia Hiebeler.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to observe this month by recognizing the strengths that people with disabilities bring to our workforce and our state.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim October 2011 to be

Disability Employment Awareness Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
11th day of September, 2011.

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas